

OUR GRAB BAG

PATHOS, ENTERTAINMENT, INSTRUCTION AND FUN.

PICKED FROM A PILE OF PAPERS.

The "Critic's" Pen, Pencil and Shears
or a Newsy Hunt.

A LITTLE BOUQUET OF BRIGHT READING.

All Sorts and Sizes of Chatty Paragraphs
on Many Themes—Easily Read
and Not Soon Forgotten.There is a world of pathos, from one point of view, in Colonel T. W. Wiggin's reflections over that time in a woman's life when she first finds herself too old for the dance and the frolics of the young, and too young for the quiet corner of the old, says the *Detroit Free Press*. No class acknowledges her. She feels often like an alien from the commonwealth of womanhood. Is charitable work and in social life the invisible line is passed. No one invites her now to preside at the fancy booth or hasten the sale of flowers with her gracious smile. Neither is she asked to give the dignity of her age and position as one of the patronesses of the fair. She is laughed at if she dresses in the gay colors her soul loves or openly wears the clothes of young girls. She has no part in the social life of the community, but is quietly relegated to the position of stage setter and prompter, while younger and older women pose and win applause. Her beauty is not at its best. She has neither the fair girlish face nor the sweet old face which is the history of what it has been. White hair does not grow with her glory, and she has lost the golden radiance of her youth. The blossom is faded, and the fruit does not compensate for its loss. At times she wonders if she is not a childless woman. She was necessary to her little children, but her growing sons and daughters do not seem to need her—at least they do not cling to her with the tender care of their babyhood. Studies, teachers, classmates and embryo love affairs fill their lives so full that the mother almost feels crowded out.**An Early Victim.**
Tom Stokes—who was the first man killed at football?Jim Hickey—St. Laurence, I suppose; he died on the "gridiron."—*Post*.**Two Intelligent Dogs.**There are two dogs in this city that surpass, in point of intelligence, the celebrated bairn bound that slightly appears with Professor Darling, the lion tamer, in the lion's cage in "Claudius Nero," says the New York *Telegraph*. If you have ever walked up Broadway late in the afternoon or evening, you have probably noticed the old blind beggar, who sits at the corner of Broadway and Thirtieth street; with him is a dog of the breed commonly known as the "yellow cur," yet one glance at the animal is enough to convince any one that he is a dog of more than ordinary intelligence. When the old blind beggar is ready to go home, the dog leads the way, the master calling him by a string attached to his collar. At any corner the dog barks once. If there are wagons or carriages passing, the dog will bark twice, and the old blind beggar will wait patiently until a tug on the string he holds informs him that the street is clear and that his guide is ready to proceed. At other times the dog has a habit of whining pitifully to attract attention to the beggar's outstretched hand, and the while rarely fails to produce the desired effect. Somewhere in the neighborhood generally about Twenty-third or Twenty-fourth street and Sixth avenue, you will come across another blind beggar and a dog. The latter is a shaggy hound and knows his business quite as well as his broadway rival does. He, also, has a habit of whining to attract attention, but the act that makes him famous in the manner he goes through a crowd. If the crowd is a big one and the dog can see no way of going through it, he will crawl ominously. The crowd scatters at once, and the dog, with a wag of his tail, proceeds with the old man who owns him.**He Objected.**
Mrs. Bowers—Shall we have a celebration on our 100th?—my dear?Mr. Bowers—Oh, good gods, no—just think of the lot of us horns that the people might bring for the use of the youngster a thousand times no.—*Musical Weekly*.**Death Comes Painlessly.**

The signs of impending death are many and variable. No two instances are precisely identical, yet several signs are common to many cases. Shakespear, who observed everything else, observed and recorded some of the premonitory signs of death also.

The account of the death of Falstaff the sharpness of the nose, the thinness of the feet, gradually extending toward the heart, the red clothes, are all curiously described.

For some time before death indications of its approach become apparent. Speech grows thick and labored, the hands, if raised, fall instantly, the respiration is difficult, the heart loses its power to propel the blood to the extremities, which consequently become cold, a clammy moisture oozes through the pores of the skin, the voice grows weak, the eyes droop, the heart begins to lose its beat. In death there is a gradual dulling of all the bodily sense and of many of the mental faculties—memory fails, judgment wavies, imagination goes out like a candle. The muscles and tendons get stiff, the voice breaks, the cords of the trachea are loosening. Small veins irritate, slight convulsions, diarrhea, are soon to follow. Death is near.

The heart becomes giddily the beats of well-nourished dinners pass in hideous procession through the mind.

The seventh day comes, bringing increasing languor and further prostration of strength. The arms hang helplessly, the legs drag heavily, the desire for food is still left, to a degree, but it must be brought, not sought.

The intolerable suffering is increased by a violent contraction of the musculature of the body, so that the heart fails to beat.

Many people have an idea that death is necessarily painful, even agonizing, but there is no reason whatever to suppose that death is more painful than birth. It becomes, in a moral proportion of cause and dimension, as painful as it is agonizing.

The most painful death is that of the infirm, the infirm who die before the time of the infirmity. The idea exists, but it is nearly as certain as anything that the infirmities of the body are not only painful but take place unconsciously. In many instances, too, a comatose or semi-comatose state supervenes, and it is al-

together probable that more or less complete unconsciousness then prevails.

Hister, *Wat Besley.*
"Put your creed into your dead."—Emerson.

"One must do something in order to be something."—Gutzkow.

"That on should die ignorant who has capacity for knowledge, this I call tragedy."—Cyrano.

Western Natural History Notes.Hunter report good hunting on the harbor, ducks and geese being on their way South to spend the winter.—*Gray's Harbor Times*.Captain Kinney caught a four foot sturgeon in his seine set in the cove the first of this week.—*Couperie Sun*.The seals are back again, after having spent the summer in their breeding grounds in Alaska.—*Alaska's American*.

Seventeen years ago Mr. Payne became induced with the California fever and went to the far West. He soon struck a rich lead and was on the high road to fortune. His friends and relatives heard from him regularly for some months, when he suddenly dropped out of existence apparently.

It was he who made a picture of a villainous plot, of which a sufficient relation was given to the authorities. A false certificate of insanity he was placed in the State Asylum of California, where he was confined for seventeen long years. It was only within the last year that he succeeded in getting word to his brother in Wisconsin, who went to San Francisco and secured his release. Mr. Payne's property has vanished and he has only seventeen years of suffering to offer as the history of the course of his life. His son is perfectly sane, and saving his premature aging, he shows little effect of his fearful experience. There is no doubt of the truth of his story and of his sanity.

Chained Books.
It is but natural that the books preserved in chains in various places in England, now rapidly diminishing in number, should be disappointing to the antiquary, says the "Gentleman's Magazine." Very earnest and conscientious in their labor were the early Reformers, and any books imbued with the "pestilential errors of Rome" were naturally removed or destroyed.

Not until the reign of "Bloody Mary" was over could the collection be made, and this more frequently dates from subsequent times—some donations of chained books coming even into the eighteenth century. The most munificent donations to Winchmore were by Winchmore himself, the Bishop of London, Mr. Blaize, notices more than one work to be found in the British Museum. Bibles in Hebrew, Latin and English, works of the Fathers, general and ecclesiastical historians, the works of Cicero, Plato and Pliny, lexicons, etc., are in the catalogue of Winchmore, and there is one illuminated MS. of the fourteenth century.

Among so many theological works one is induced to stumble on some literature written by Balfe's "Chronicles of the Kings of England." Sir Thomas Browne's "Vulgar Errors" and "Religio Medici," Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," Camden's "Anals," a translation of Philip de Comines, Evelyn's "The French Gardener," Greenloe's "History of the Netherlands," with the autograph "Sir Walter Rawley," the works of Machiavelli, Haleigh, "The History of England," and "The Queen's Lives" of the Most Famous English Poets. About eighty plates are mentioned by Mr. Blaize as having contained one or more chained books within the last half century, and a list of all the books in the various libraries is with commendable industry compiled.

One of the most common books in churches was the "Acts and Monuments" of Fox—more generally known as Fox's "Book of Martyrs." The "Chronicles of the Kings of England," Sir Thomas Browne's "Vulgar Errors" and "Religio Medici," Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," Camden's "Anals," a translation of Philip de Comines, Evelyn's "The French Gardener," Greenloe's "History of the Netherlands," with the autograph "Sir Walter Rawley," the works of Machiavelli, Haleigh, "The History of England," and "The Queen's Lives" of the Most Famous English Poets. About eighty plates are mentioned by Mr. Blaize as having contained one or more chained books within the last half century, and a list of all the books in the various libraries is with commendable industry compiled.

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